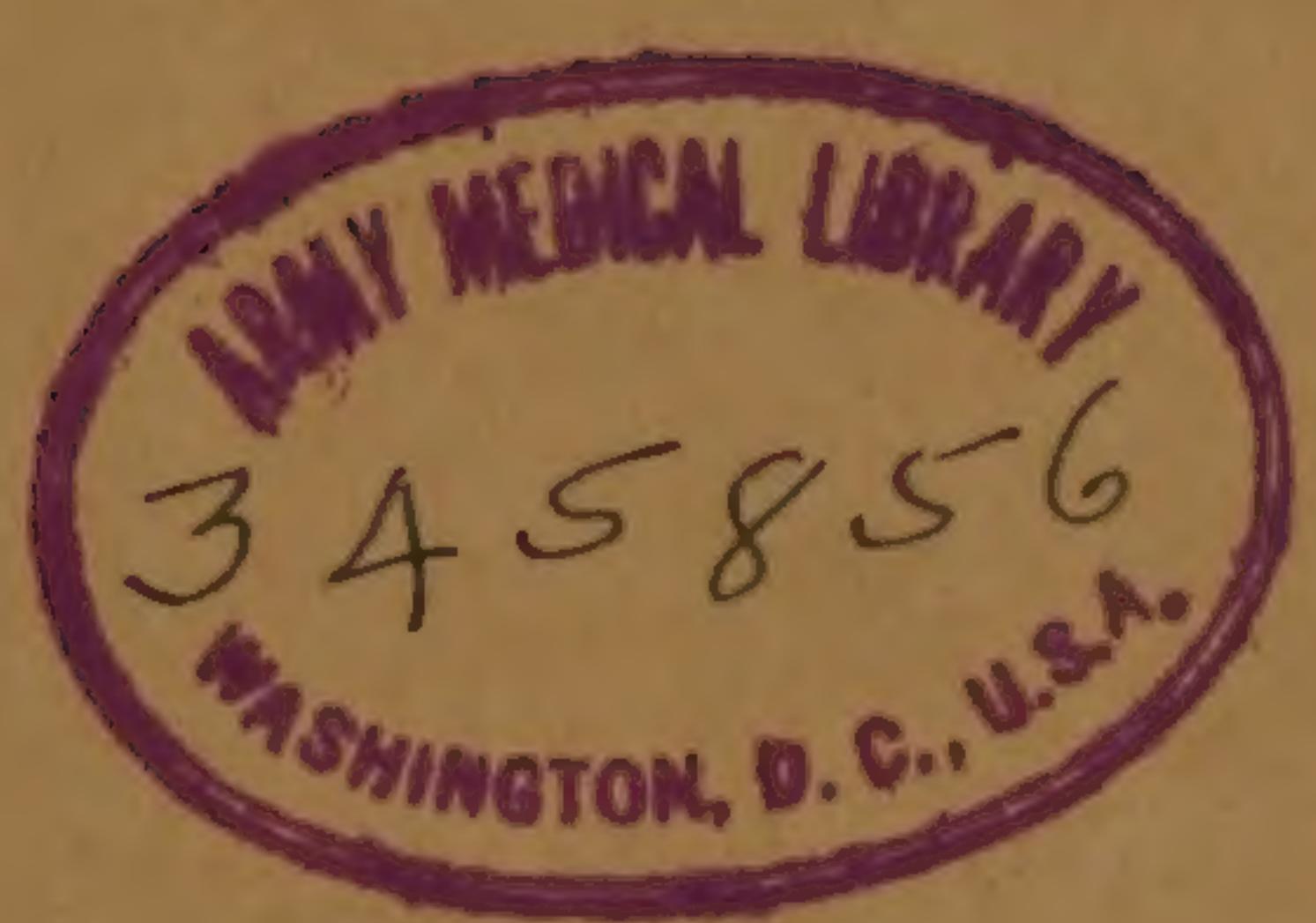


United States Congress -  
House of Reps.



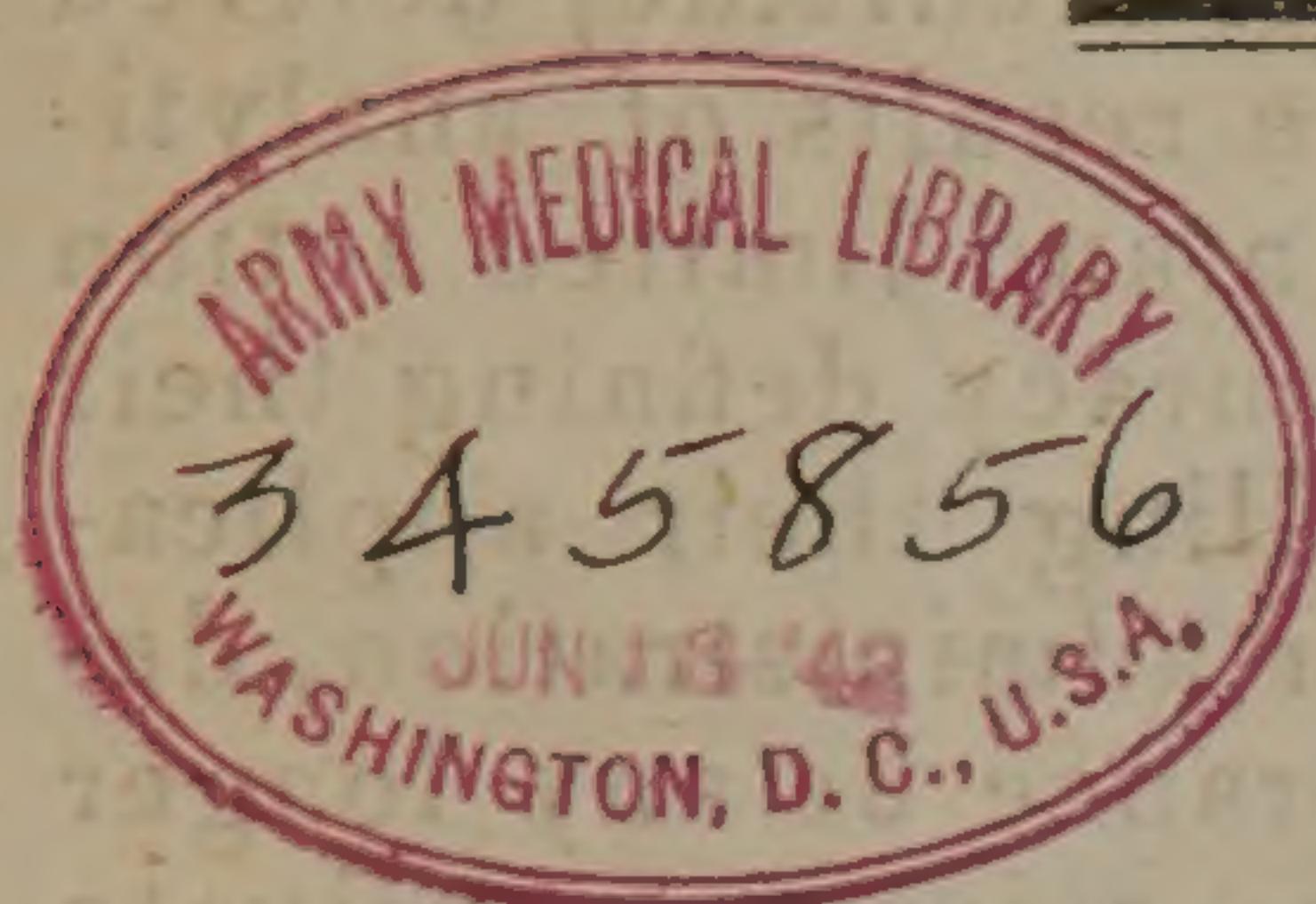
Box 1254



Report No. 52.

[To accompany bill H. R. No. 755.]

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.



PATENT MEDICINES.

FEBRUARY 6, 1849.

Dr. EDWARDS, from the Select Committee, to whom was referred the resolution of the House of Representatives ordering an inquiry into the expediency of so amending the patent laws as to prevent the patenting of compound medicines, made the following

**REPORT:**

That, for many years, a vast system of medical empiricism, sustained by popular credulity and the sanction of government, has prevailed in this country, to the serious detriment of the public health and morals. Relying on that peculiar element in human nature which attracts mankind to the mysterious, in whatever shape or form presented, the unprincipled and mercenary, with fertile ingenuity, have been daily prostituting a noble science at the shrine of private interest, and to the deadly injury of their fellow men. While foreign dealers and their unscrupulous agents have hitherto flooded the land with impure and adulterated drugs, the untaught and designing of our own community, under the seal of a public office, have been forming the same substances, without regard to compatibility, into combinations, not only unrecognized but condemned by all the laws of pharmacy. The press teems with advertisements of these catharticons, to the virtues of which no limit is assigned. Proclaimed infallible in diseases manifestly antagonistic, they are sold without remorse, to be administered in ignorance, leaving no trace but an increase of misfortune, and offering no redress for the ruin which they entail.

To that highest and most difficult province of the physician, the detection and discrimination of disease in all its multifarious forms, as varied by peculiarities of age and constitution, and complicated by the influences of climate and habit, the quack pays no respect,

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but, with specious promises, faithlessly offers to each and every case the universal panacea; and, whether positively or negatively injurious, the result is disappointment and perhaps death to the sufferer. The educated practitioner can never lose sight of that severe accountability which society and his profession have imposed. He is taught to feel that an error in diagnosis, or a failure to arrest disease when within control, are no less a cause of reproach than faulty or fatal interference; but, for the irresponsible vendor of these atrocious compounds there is no retributive tribunal, either of censure or law. The principles of medicine, derived from accumulated experience, and the delicate results of analytical chemistry, assign to all remedies a certain and limited action upon the physical economy—with the same accuracy defining their curative powers and the circumstances controlling their application—under no authority, less stringent is their administration, defensible; nor should the hand of reckless ignorance be any longer suffered to pervert the sacred gifts of nature and science to private profit or to public injury.

The full extent of this iniquitous traffic can by none be so correctly estimated as by medical men, whose daily duties bring them into constant collision with its startling effects. It is not the prosperous and educated classes who are so often the subjects of imposture as the poor and illiterate, whose condition is adverse to discrimination, and whose limited means prompt them to seek the relief most confidently, and, at the same time, cheaply promised. By such, the false and treacherous doctrine of "every man his own doctor" is eagerly and credulously accepted, and the sense of the whole medical profession will confirm the opinion of the committee, that to this unfortunate delusion may be traced a vast proportion of the diseases that decimate the poor, and render the trials of destitution still more intolerable.

The committee most earnestly represent that the cause of humanity, and the welfare of that distinguished profession whose sphere is the alleviation of human suffering, imperatively require the aid of legislation to restrict, if it cannot altogether suppress, this great and growing evil, by withholding from its abettors the sanction of an enlightened government, and by shielding the public health from the hand of levity, with the same jealous care that now guards life and property from overt violence. They regard the legalized practice of granting patents for compound medicinal agents as immoral and pernicious in tendency, opposed to the spirit of the institution founded for the beneficent protection of inventive genius, derogatory to the national character, and subversive of the benevolent aims of medical science. They oppose it not only with philanthropic views, but as exponents of an intense and universal professional sentiment, and as advocates of a large and liberal class in the body politic, whose lofty ethics repudiate exclusive rights and emoluments, forbid secrecy, and unite all its members in a common search for truth and usefulness. As such, they disclaim all selfish motives, desiring only, from the highest legislative authority, its cordial support in an important measure of reform, and

an expression of opinion that will awaken the public to a sense of its danger. By these means, though the evil complained of may continue to exist as a private speculation, yet it will have received the discountenance of the wise and good; and the stigma of sustaining an iniquitous traffic will be expunged from the national records.

Article 1, section 8, of the constitution of the United States gives to Congress the power to secure to authors and inventors the exclusive right to their respective writings and discoveries to promote the progress of science and useful arts, and to make all laws necessary to the execution of such powers.

By useful arts is meant such as are productive of good, beneficial to society or to individuals, when not incompatible with the general weal, in contradistinction to the arts of injurious character. This distinction has been held by the courts; but, lest the solemn purport of the statute should be trifled with, Congress has given power to the commissioner to refuse patents for inventions of a trivial or unimportant character. To decide this question of usefulness and importance is by no means an easy or pleasant task for the commissioner, and is sometimes impracticable. In no department of his duties does he meet the same difficulty as in deciding this important question when a compound medical agent is present. Should he decide to reject it, he would be overwhelmed by certificates of utility and cures. And yet there can be no doubt but that the grant of patents for compound medicines has an injurious tendency. Whatever act, legislative or otherwise, that fosters empiricism, and thus jeopardizes life and health, is injurious. In full conviction of the pernicious tendency of patent medicines, the various medical societies have laws prohibiting any member from patenting medicines. Common feelings of philanthropy seem to forbid the monopoly, by individuals, of means which should be within the reach of all for the alleviation of pain, the curing of disease, and the saving of life. If a physician were persuaded that the use of a certain compound medicine would exert a beneficial influence in a certain case, he would not hesitate to write the prescription though the article may have been patented. A law would seem to be unwisely founded that would prohibit his prescription in such a case, and yet the law of patents operates in this manner.

Your committee much regret the loss, by fire, of the specification and formulas of patent medicine anterior to 1836. They are enabled only to give the names of the patentees and articles patented, in a large majority of those grants. The formulas not being "restored" are not now on file. The subjoined correspondence will exhibit the data upon which the abstract here presented is predicated.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, January 1, 1849.

SIR: The undersigned was appointed chairman of a select committee by the House of Representatives "to inquire into the expediency of so amending the patent laws as to prevent the patenting

of compound medicines." In order to carry into effect the resolution of the House, abstracts from books in your department are deemed necessary. Will you furnish me with the formulas and names of the various patent medicines on file in your office, together with a short abstract of the diseases for which they are deemed curative by the inventors.

Your obedient servant,

T. O. EDWARDS, *Chairman, &c.*

Hon. EDMUND BURKE,

*Commissioner of Patents.*

PATENT OFFICE, January 19, 1849.

SIR: Enclosed herewith I have the honor to hand you the statement required by yours of the 1st instant, in relation to patent medicines. It includes the patents issued, and the applications rejected.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,  
EDMUND BURKE,  
*Commissioner of Patents.*

Hon. T. O. EDWARDS,

*House of Representatives.*

*Patents granted.*

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Names of Patentees.	Residence.	Date of patents.	Names of medicines.	Ingredients, mode of compounding, diseases for which it is alleged the medicines are remedies.
Morris Cannon John J. Girard	New Orleans, La. Baltimore, Md.	Oct. 1, 1830 Sept. 9, 1817	Ague and fever specific Anti-bilious grand depurative gurider	Not restored
Ez. Alder Elizabeth Bartlette Jesse Wheaton S. R. Terrell Isaac W. Smith Elias Willard	New York New York Massachusetts Burton, Miss. Lockport, N. Y. Albany, N. Y.	Oct. 26, 1818 Jan. 29, 1833 June 17, 1801 Feb. 5, 1836 May 28, 1830 Oct. 8, 1810	Asiatic lenitive for pain Balsam, lavender Bitters, jaundice Blood, equalizing the Catholicon, chemical Composition, cure for can- cers do	do do do do do do
Robe	Norfolk, Va.	Aug. 17, 1835	Composition for medical purposes	Restored
<p>Remedy for Asiatic cholera, cholera morbus, diarrhoea, &amp;c., and that the following is a full and exact description of the process or proportions of compounding the same, viz: According to the proportions given of the following ingredients, sulphure of alum, two grains; sup. carb. potass., one grain; alcohol at eighty degrees above proof, forty drops; gum camphor, twenty grains; Hoffman's anodyne elixir, half an ounce; white sugar, half an ounce; compound tincture of opium, half an ounce; spirits of lavender, half an ounce; pure water, three ounces—which are to be mixed together, and taken according to the following directions, viz: Take a table spoonful of the mixture, with the same quantity of water, every hour or half hour, as occasion may require, until vomiting, purging, and pains, have ceased. This medicine has been administered to children affected with diarrhoea or cholera morbus, in doses of a tea spoonful, with the</p>				

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Ingredients, mode of compounding, diseases for which it is alleged the medicines are remedies.

Names of patentees.	Residence.	Date of patents.	Names of medicines.
Robert A. Bernard—continued	Norfolk, Va.	Aug. 17, 1835	Composition for medical purposes
John C. Bay	Mount Pleasant, O.	Jan. 26, 1825	Composition, pharmaceutical
James U. Armour	Frederick, Md.	Sept. 28, 1827	Composition for scury
Charity S. Long	Philadelphia, Pa.	May 27, 1812	Consumption, &c., curing
Simon Lazarus	Virginia	Dec. 21, 1802	Cordial, anti-bilious
Samuel Chamberlain	Massachusetts	Dec. 31, 1804	Cordial, bilious
John S. Fall	Rattlesnake Springs, Ga.	Nov. 25, 1831	Dropsey and epilepsy, cure for
Truman Powell	Burlington, Vt.	Feb. 2, 1828	Dysentery, dyspepsia, &c.
Jules Rucco	Baltimore, Md.	Mar. 29, 1817	Elixir of life
Harvey Frink	Northampton, Mass.	June 6, 1812	Elixir, restorative
Samuel Cooley	Bolton, Conn.	Nov. 12, 1803	Elixir, vegetable
Asa Johnson	Northumberland, Pa.	Jan. 11, 1812	Febrifuge
Elisha Smith	New York	Dec. 15, 1828	Gout nostrum
William A. Parker	Accomac co., Va.	Nov. 4, 1831	Gout and rheumatism, cure for
John Callan	Philadelphia, Pa.	May 4, 1818	Magnesia, medicated, liquid
Richard Jordan and M. Anderson	Philadelphia, Pa.	June 25, 1834	Magnesia, medicated, liquid
Samuel Thompson Lorenzo Dow	Surrey, N. H.	March 2, 1813	Medicine
	Hebron, Conn.	Nov. 24, 1820	Medicine
1. Take nine pounds of genuine epsom salts, dissolved in soft boiling water, the whole making eight quarts, to which add the tincture of bloodroot, (sanguinaria,) say four ounces.			
2. Take one pound of pure salts of nitre, dissolved in boiling water, eight ounces of sul-			
Restored			

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phuric acid, of the best quality, the whole making four quarts, all of which must be stirred with a wooden stick, and when cool, mix the same with the above epsom salts and bloodroot solution, which will constitute Dow's family medicine in its full strength, in its concentrated state. The whole process must be performed in stone or earthen vessels, and afterwards preserved in glass. One or twotable spoonsful, in a half pint of cold water, or less quantity of each, may be taken once in two hours, until it operates freely. This medicine has been found of general utility and efficacy in all those disorders called bilious, and affections of the liver, exceeding common credibility, even in many cases wherein repeated courses of mercurials have been used in vain. In costive habits, a corrective, and in dysentery, a speedy relief is obtained.

		Not restored
John Prentiss	Mar. 27, 1822	Medicine
Samuel Thompson	Jan. 28, 1823	Medicine
Fitzgerald Bird	April 16, 1828	Medicine
John Dent	July 2, 1828	Medicine
Joseph Baker	May 5, 1831	Medicine
Charles Whitlow	Feb. 16, 1825	Medicine, administering by steam
John G. Vought	Dec. 4, 1821	Medicine, anti-dysenteric
Horton Howard	Aug. 25, 1832	Medicine, anti-spasmodic tincture

Take of tincture of lobelia seeds, (*Lobelia inflata*) one pint; of tincture of cayenne, (*Capsicum annuum*), one pint; of nervine tincture, three gills. Mix and bottle for use. Dose: from half a tea spoonful to a table spoonful, repeated according to circumstances. This tincture is used not only in cases of fits, spasms, &c., but in all violent attacks of disease, and in cases of suspended animation from drowning, hanging, lightning, or any other cause whatever. It also operates as a speedy emetic, and may be used for this purpose in all cases where emetics are indicated,

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Names of patentees.	Residence.	Date of patents.	Names of medicines.	Ingredients, mode of compounding, diseases for which it is alleged the medicines are remedies.
Horton Howard—continued.	Columbus, O.	Aug. 25, 1832	Medicine, anti-spasmodic tincture.	and especially in cases of accidental or criminal introduction of poisonous substances into the stomach, &c. It may likewise be used to facilitate the operation of an emetic of the more common preparations of lobelia, for which purpose it may be administered in tea or table spoonful doses, and at the discretion of the practitioner, until it has the desired effect. The three above-mentioned tinctures (of which the anti-spasmodic tincture is composed) are made as follows, viz: 1. Tincture of lobelia seeds is made by digesting sour and a half ounces of pulverized lobelia ( <i>inflata</i> ) seeds in a pint of alcohol, for ten days in a hot sun heat, often shaking it; then strain or filter. 2. Tincture of cayenne is made by digesting four and a half ounces of best cayenne ( <i>capsicum annum</i> ) finely pulverized in a pint of alcohol in the same manner as for the last above mentioned tincture. 3. <i>Nervine tincture</i> is made by infusing four ounces of the powder (next hereinafter described) in a pint of alcohol or brandy, placed in a hot sun heat, often shaking for ten days, when it may be poured off, strained or filtered, and add one ounce of the essence of anise. The powder next referred to is prepared as follows, viz: Take of lady's slipper, ( <i>cyprippedium luteum</i> .) four ounces; of ginseng, ( <i>panax quinquefolium</i> .) two ounces, and two nutmegs, all

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finely pulverized and well mixed. Essence of anise may be made by diluting two ounces of the oil of anise in a pint of alcohol.

To prepare an *astringent tonic*, to be used in cases of disease where astringent tonics are indicated; and especially in relaxations of the intestines and other parts of the system, in haemorrhages; in cases of canker ulcers; putrid disorders, and fevers, except in cases attended with obstinate costiveness, and where the mouth is dry and parched, with difficult breathing, take equal parts of birth root, (*trillium latisfolium*,) plurisy root, (*asclepius tuberosa*,) the bark of the root of bay berry, (*myrica cerifera*,) the inner bark of hemlock, (*Pinus canadensis*,) all finely pulverized and well mixed, one ounce of this powder steeped in one and a half pint of water—dose half a teacup full, with from half to a whole teaspoon full of Cayenne in it, sweetened if most agreeable. A dose of this tea may be taken three times a day in ordinary cases; but in diarrœa, dysentery, flooding, &c., the doses should be more frequent.

To prepare a *bitter tonic*, to be used in all cases of disease where bitter tonics are indicated, and particularly in those attended with much loss of appetite and great prostration of strength, take one pound each of poplar bark, (*populus tremida*,) the root of golden seal, (*hydrastis canadensis*;) the bark of the root of bay berry, (*myrica cerifera*,) the root of American columbo, (*frasera verticillata*;) six ounces each of capsicum and cloves, and four pounds six ounces of loaf or lump sugar; being a quantity equal to all the other articles. All to be finely pulverized, sifted, and well mixed. Dose: one teaspoon full, in either hot or cold water; or the powders may be taken into the mouth, moistened with the saliva and swallowed or washed down with cold water.

Columbus, Ohio

Aug. 25, 1832

Medicine, astringent tonic

Horton Howard

Aug. 25, 1832

Medicine, bitter tonic

Columbus, Ohio

Aug. 25, 1832

Medicine, bitter tonic

Horton Howard

Aug. 25, 1832

Restored

## Patents granted—Continued.

Names of patentees.	Residence.	Date of patents.	Names of medicines.	Ingredients, mode of compounding, diseases for which it is alleged the medicines are remedies.
Horton Howard—cont'd	Columbus, Ohio	Aug. 25, 1832	Medicine, bitter tonic	To make laxative bitters, add one pound more or less of the bitter root ( <i>apscynum andrasac-mifolium</i> ) to the foregoing compound, increasing in the same proportion, the quantity of capsicum, cloves and sugar.
a Samuel Thompson	Boston, Mass.	May 6, 1836	Medicine, botanic	First, the mode of preparing an emetic to be used in all cases where the same is necessary, that is to say in all forms of disease caused by cold or obstructed perspiration, take of the leaves of lobelia inflata, of Linnaeus, pulverized to a fine powder, from five to twenty grains in warm water sweetened; or in a tea of red raspberry leaves, or in any tea proper for removing canker; the dose is to be repeated until the desired effect shall be produced. This preparation is for the less violent attacks of disease in adults or for children. Second, take of the seed of lobelia, referred to, one pound finely pulverized, with one pound of white sugar, the whole to be well pounded together, (the sugar being designed to absorb the oil,) then add half a pound of the best capsicum, quarter of a pound of nerve powder, one gallon improved rheumatic drops as hereinafter described. Dose: two tea spoonfulls for an adult, in a gill of myrtle-root bark tea, sweetened; or in a strong decoction of the following compound, namely, two pounds of myrtle-root bark, one pound golden seal, one pound ginger, two ounces capsicum, two ounces cloves; all pulverized fine, and sifted through a fine sieve, and well mixed together. For a dose take a

tea spoonful in hot water, sweetened; half this quantity for a child, and more or less according to age. This also may be used for the less violent attacks of disease—to be taken warm—the patient being in bed with a hot brick or stone wrapped in several thicknesses of cloth, with water or vinegar placed at the feet. It may be here observed that steaming by the inventor's plan is of the utmost importance in this mode of practice. Injections are also of the utmost importance to remove canker below the reach of medicine given in the usual way. The directions to prepare and use the same with steam are to be found in my "Guide to Health," secured by copy right. Mode of relaxing the muscles in setting a bone, or in midwifery. To relax the muscles in setting a bone let the patient be in bed or shielded from cold air by a blanket near the fire; administer a dose of the compound last named. If this does not produce a perspiration, give a dose of the second preparation of the emetic, and wrap up the part affected with cloths wet with water as warm as can be borne, and pour hot water upon the part until the muscles relax sufficiently. In this way a bone may be set with your thumb and finger, and with very little trouble to the operator, or pain to the patient; whilst by the common method it would require from two to six men, causing the most excruciating pain to the patient. The same method may be resorted to in midwifery or childbed delivery, by taking the medicine as aforesaid, and near the time of delivery let the patient drink freely of raspberry-leaf tea with a portion of emetic number two capsicum (see my Guide to Health,) which will hasten or delay the delivery as nature requires; then put several diapers or cloths in a kettle of hot water and have everything ready that no time may be

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## Patents granted—Continued.

Names of patentees.	Residence.	Names of medicines.	Date of patents.	Ingredients, mode of compounding, diseases for which it is alleged the medicines are remedies.
Samuel Thompson— continued	Boston, Mass.	Medicine, botanic	May 6, 1836	<p>lost; when the pain is approaching, apply a cloth as hot as can be borne to slack the muscles as before described, which will abate the pain; as soon as the pain returns change the cloth for another hot one; this will perform that which nature or her pains are striving to accomplish; and by this mode at least three-fourths of the strength of the suffering patient can be preserved, so much required at this critical period. By maintaining the perspiration after delivery the alarming complaints incident in such cases will be prevented. The patient will be soon restored to her strength and vigor. In this way the husband can attend to his wife, and she to her neighbor until experience shall preclude the necessity of science. Anti-dyspeptic conserve preparation.—Take one pound of the fresh blossoms of the hollyhock, or of the dry ones moistened to the same consistency of the green; pound them well together in a mortar; then add four pounds of white sugar; pound until a paste is formed; then knead or work in with a pestle the following powder made fine: namely, two pounds of poplar bark, half a pound of golden seal, half pound of bitter herb, (balmoney,) half pound of cloves, two pounds of ginger, half pound of fine slippery-elm bark, half pound of capsicum; when it becomes of the consistency of dough, when add one-quarter ounce oil of pennyroyal well mixed, thus form it into a loaf to dry or form it into pills. A piece of the loaf</p>

carried in the pocket, and used as a substitute for tobacco, which may be swallowed with the saliva, instead of spitting it off, as in the use of that pernicious weed, tobacco—the former will invigorate whilst the latter will debilitate the system—it will make persons fleshy and strong, instead of lean and weak; it is a powerful anti-dyspeptic agent; it may be carried in a box or paper and used instead of tobacco. The spring is the best time to try the beneficial effects of this medicine, when the weather is becoming warm, persons faint, the digestion poor and the body cold for want of food and digestive powers to consume it. When this medicine is used the dyspepsia will cease because the food is digested or consumed like the fire in the grate which keeps up that heat on which the fire in the grate and the life in the body depends. Here is the cause of consumption, and there the cure for it. Anti-dyspeptic restorative.—Take of the bark of the quaking asp, five pounds; of golden seal, two pounds; of bitter herb, one pound; umbrib, one pound; cloves, one pound; unicorn, one pound; cinnamon, one pound; ginger, two pounds; capsicum, one pound; and fifteen pounds of white sugar, all made fine, and mixed well together, and put up for use. Dose: one ounce of the powder to one quart of hot water, or a tea spoonful in a tumbler of hot water, sweetened; this is the best mode of using it. For wine bitters, one ounce of the powder in a common junk bottle, scalded in a half pint of hot water; then fill the bottle with the best sweet Malaga wine, and sugar at discretion. A syrup for relax or summer complaints.—Take one pound of poplar bark; one pound of black cherry bark, of the green root; one pound of bay berry; half a pound of golden seal; half a pound of hops; boil and strain off eight gallons; then add twenty-five pounds of

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## Patents granted--Continued.

Names of patentees.	Residence.	Date of patents.	Names of medicines.	Ingredients, mode of compounding, diseases for which it is alleged the medicines are remedies.
Samuel Thompson—continued	Boston, Mass.	May 6, 1836	Medicine, botanic	white sugar, scalded; skim it; then add one pound of cloves when hot, and put it in a keg. When cool, add two gallons of improved rheumatic drops. Dose: for an adult, from a half to one wine glassful, and repeat at discretion till cured. Improved rheumatic drops.—Take of gum myrrh, one pound; of golden seal, a quarter of a pound; of bay berry, a quarter of a pound; capsicum, one ounce; the whole to be put in one gallon of cherry high wines or high-proof brandy, and let it be well shaken together. Dose: from one to — tea spoonfuls.
David Holbrook Horton Howard	Onondaga co., N. Y. Columbus, Ohio	Mar. 28, 1814 Aug. 25, 1832	Medicine, canker drops. Medicine, compound tincture of myrrh	To prepare compound tincture of myrrh.—Take of best myrrh twelve ounces, of capsicum (annum) two ounces; balsam of fir (pinus balsamea) one ounce, nutmeg half an ounce, brandy one gallon. The solid articles are all to be finely pulverized and infused in the brandy for ten days in a hot sun heat and often shaken, when it may be strained or filtered. This is a powerful antiseptic, and should be used internally in all cases when mortification of any internal part is apprehended; and in all putrid diseases. It is also useful in cases of worms, pains in the stomach; colic, headache, &c. Dose from one to four teaspoons full, or even more, if necessary. It is highly valuable to wash and cleanse old foul ulcers, which are obstinate to heal, likewise to bathe fresh wounds and bruises. Taken internally, and

the parts affected bathed externally with this tincture; it often relieves rheumatic affections and other pains, &c.

Elizabeth Stoy, ex'x of Wm. Stoy	Lebanon, Penn.	June 9, 1809	Medicine, cure for the bite of a mad dog.	Not restored.
Jacob Houck	Baltimore, Md.	Oct. 25, 1832	Medicine, cure for cholera	
Anthony Hunn, sen.	Lancaster, Ky.	Aug. 12, 1833	do	
Horton Howard	Columbus, Ohio	Aug. 25, 1832	Medicine, diaphoretic or sweating powders	Restored
				To prepare diaphoretic or sweating powders, to be used in ordinary cases of slight indisposi- tion, and in all cases where it is necessary to produce perspiration.—Take one pound each of butterfly root, ( <i>asclepias tuberosa</i> ), bark of the root of bayberry, ( <i>marica cerifera</i> ), gin- ger, four ounces each of sassafras, bark of the root, ( <i>lanus sassafras</i> ), colic root, ( <i>liatris</i> <i>dubia</i> ), two ounces each of cloves and cay- enne, all finely pulverized and sifted through a fine seive, and well mixed. Dose for an adult one teaspoon full in hot water, sweet- ened, if most agreeable. For children the dose must be proportionately less, and to make it more agreeable cream or milk may be added as well as sugar. This compound combines both stimulant and tonic medicines; the one increases the vital force, the other re- stores the tone of the organs. It equalizes the circulation of the fluids, and thereby tends, in a high degree to the removal of pain, &c., and the staying of bleedings.
Gideon Jaques Silas T. Thurman	Wilmington, Del.	July 16, 1824	Medicine for serosula, &c.	Not restored.
	Lincoln, Ky.	July 23, 1841	Medicine for the treat- ment of syphilis, &c.	
				Used in the treatment of pox or syphilis, lues go- norrhœa, buboæ, gleet, and all other syphilitic diseases, and affections of any and every kind whatever in males or females; also, in the treatment of lucorrhœa, whites, or fluor albus in females. 1st. Take of poke root, green, twelve pounds, cut the same in small pieces so as to separate all the rotten or defective

Names of patentees.	Residence.	Date of patents.	Names of medicines.
Silas T. Thurman	Lincoln, Ky.	July 23, 1841	Medicine for the treatment of syphilis, &c.

Ingredients, mode of compounding, diseases for which it is alleged the medicines are remedies.

parts, clean all well before using any, (I will here remark that all roots are better in the fall or winter than any other time,) put the twelve pounds of clean root as aforesaid in a kettle with sixteen gallons, and boil the same down to half a gallon. I then let roots and water remain together until it gets cold. I then press the roots so as to get all the substance out of them ; I then strain it and let it stand, and commence the other portion of my tea, or compound ; for which I take, in the second part, sarsaparilla 7 ounces, when dry, then take half the sarsaparilla, and put in three pints of good whiskey or apple brandy, and let it stand until it extracts all the strength from it ; then take twelve ounces of cedar tops and split the largest branches very small, and then put the cedar tops, the other half of the sarsaparilla, six ounces of running briar roots, when green ; in that state they are preferable ; rattleweed, four ounces of the root ; half pound of sumach branches ; these last five ingredients I put in a sixteen-gallon kettle full of water, and boil down slowly to half a gallon, (the cedar, I would here remark, I don't put in until it is boiled about half down as the strength of the cedar tops incline to evaporate,) strain this and let it cool, then mix the poke root tea and this last-mentioned tea together, then pour off the three pints of whiskey which was in the first half of the sarsaparilla in with the whole compound ; it is then

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fit for use, but every time before using shake it well. In cases of pox or syphilis take each night and morning two and a quarter drachms of sulphur. In no other disease it is necessary the patient should keep the bowels open gently with common epsom salts, and keep free from exposure or damp weather. The patient will take every morning, noon, and night three ounces at a time of the tea or compound. After the patient commences and the bowels properly opened, they must get bled every few days, until the blood becomes of a pure or natural color. The affected parts in all diseases should be washed in weak suds at least three times a day, so as never to let any of the virulent matter remain long at any time; but the whites in females should always be washed in cold water, and nothing else, also in cases of gleet; but in both the last-mentioned diseases the tea is to be used as above described in any common case of all the above-described diseases. Ten or twelve days will effect a perfect cure, unless calomel has been taken; then it will require longer, and it will leave the constitution unhurt. Calomel is prohibited in all cases whatever and invariably, but in cases of pox the ulcers must be greased every time after washing as above stated, and wiped dry and annointed with red precipitate.

Proportion of the compound sufficient to fill an ounce vial.—Oil of tansey ten drops, tincture of fox glove twelve drops, oil of anniseed ten drops, oil of worm seed one scruple, compound tincture of male fern fifteen drops, castor oil one ounce. The above articles are to be well incorporated together. A medicine of my own discovery to destroy the worms of all kinds, from the smallest ascarides to the largest taenia or tape worm; it is mild in its

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Medicine, worm destroying.

Waynesborough, Pa. Oct. 28, 1837

John J. Oellig

Patents granted—Continued.

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Names of patentees.	Residence.	Date of patents.	Names of medicines.	Ingredients, mode of compounding, diseases for which it is alleged the medicines are remedies.
John J. Cellig	Waynesborough, Pa.	Oct. 28, 1837	Medicine, worm destroying	operation, more pleasant to be taken than other remedies, and has by experience proved to be a certain cure. A teaspoon full of this medicine must be given to a child every two hours till it operates. To an adult half a phial morning and evening.
William Judkins Nathaniel Shepherd Elias Gilman	Smithfield, Ohio Belmont co., Ohio Licking, Ohio	June 26, 1816 July 9, 1830 Mar. 31, 1836	Ointment Ointment, (on Judkins's) Ointment, for cancer	Take of sulphate of iron finely pulverized and mutton tallow equal parts, mix by thoroughly grinding or working them together, so as to form an ointment or plaister. Method of using: Spread a necessary portion of the ointment on a piece of linen, and renew it as necessity may require—the caucer to be washed clean every time the plaister is renewed alternately with a decoction of spikenard and tanners oozee, and apply a small quantity of strong decoction of yellow oak bark every time a plaister is put on; also, a solution of one part potash and four parts water, may be used as necessity may require.
Wm. Waller Gray	Richmond, Va.	Mar. 18, 1835	Ointment, cure of diseases	An ointment for the cure of many external diseases, viz: White swellings, ulcers of long standing, tumors, eruptions, burns, and scalds, old and fresh, wounds, callous and glandular swellings, &c. Receipt and mode of preparing the ointment: One gallon cotton seed oil, one gallon linseed oil, one quart sweet oil, pure, one quart Canada balsam, or oil of fir, two pounds of mutton suet, one pound bees.

wax, and five pounds sugar of lead. The cotton seed and linseed oils to be put into an iron kettle sufficiently large to hold fourteen or fifteen gallons; the kettle to be swung on a crane over a fire of charcoal in a composition or other furnace, the heat of which may be regulated by hoisting or shutting down the drawer. The oils should be slowly boiled or simmered for five or six hours, but never so much heated as to burn or destroy the gummy substances. Previous to introducing the sugar of lead, however, the heat of the oils should be considerably increased until it will scorch and blacken the feather, or parch and burst the bowl of a common goose quill very quickly. In this stage of the oil the lead may be introduced after being first ground in a mortar of some kind as fine as flour, if possible, and then passed through a fine hair sieve. One person should stir the oils while another should throw in the lead in small quantities through a tin pot made like a pepper pot. After the lead is introduced, (which should require at least one hour,) the mutton suet and beeswax must be put in, and the stirring continued over a moderate fire one half hour longer. When the heat is great and the lead introduced, it is sometimes difficult to keep the oils within the kettle; therefore, by means of a crane, the kettle may be very promptly removed from the fire, and if necessary the oils may be dipped out with an iron ladle and put into large earthen or crockery pans, and when the heat diminishes or agitation subsides, the oils from the pans may be returned to the kettle, and the stirring continued until the process is completed. After this work is done take the kettle down, let the materials get somewhat cool, and then pour the sweet oil and Canada balsam (mixed together) into the ointment, taking care not to let the heat be so great as

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Names of patentees.	Residence.	Date of patents.	Names of medicines.	Ingredients, mode of compounding, diseases for which it is alleged the medicines are remedies.
Wm. Waller Gray— continued .	Richmond, Va.	Mar. 18, 1835	Ointment, cure of diseases	to make these last-mentioned ingredients evaporate. This completes the whole process. The ointment should then be dipped out of the kettle, strained through a fine wire sifter into crockery or fire-proof pans, and there remain until the day following, when it may be rewarmed and made sufficiently thin to be put into pots by means of a tin cup with a lip or spout. The pots should be well corked and sealed, or the ointment will work out through every aperture. The cork should never penetrate the mouth of the pot so far as to touch or press upon the ointment. The tin pot mentioned above should be made large enough to contain a pint, and the holes in the top made as small as that of a pepper pot.
				Take of the cream of sulphur two ounces, of powdered nutgalls one ounce, of powdered opium one grain, and mix them intimately, adding lard enough to give it a proper consistency for ointment, mixing it thoroughly, which is to be applied to the parts affected as often as twice every twenty-four hours, until a cure is effected.
William W. Riley	Mansfield, Ohio	Jan. 31, 1841	Ointment for piles	Take twenty-five gallons of rye whiskey, to which add twenty-five pounds of gum guac, one hundred and fifty pounds of sugar, one pound of oil of juniper, and five ounces of oil of lemon; incorporate these well together, then bottle the mixture, and it will be fit for use. This medicine is an effectual cure for the following diseases: Dyspepsia, loss of appetite, indiges-
Jacob Honek	Baltimore, Md.	May 9, 1833		

tion, inflammation of the stomach, heartburn, diarrhea, dysentery or flux, cholera morbus, consumption, influenza, colds, coughs, inflammation of the chest, palsy, gout, rheumatism, inflammatory sore throat or quinsey, whooping cough, thrush or sore mouth, putrid sore throat, croup, inflammation of the heart, dropsy, rickets, diseases of the liver, jaundice, obstructed and painful menstruation, difficulty of retaining urine, gleet, hysterics, nervous and scrofulous affections of the members and ligaments, mercurial and venereal diseases, ulcers, sores, affections of the skin, and all diseases arising from impure blood, &c.

Samuel Cooley	Connecticut	June 6, 1798	Pills	Not restored.
John Hawks	Connecticut	Dec. 14, 1799	Pills	
Benjamin Duvall	Virginia	May 3, 1797	Pills, anti-bilious	
Thomas H. Ranson	Connecticut	July 24, 1802	Pills, anti-bilious	
Thomas H. Ranson	Connecticut	April 4, 1803	Pills, anti-bilious	
George Smith	New York	Aug. 7, 1821	Pills, anti-dyspeptic	
J. C. M. Brockway	Lyme, Conn.	Mar. 13, 1822	Pills, anti-dispeptic	
Samuel Lee, Jr.	Connecticut	April 30, 1796	Pills, bilious	
Samuel H. P. Lee	Connecticut	June 26, 1799	Pills, bilious	
Samuel Lee	New London, Conn.	May 24, 1810	Pills, bilious, (Lee's Windham)	
Samuel H. P. Lee	New London, Conn.	Feb. 8, 1814	Pills, bilious, (Lee's)	
Daniel Coit	-	Oct. 5, 1803	Pills, family	
David Coit	-	June 17, 1820	Pills, family	
George B. Dexter	-	Dec. 18, 1805	Pills, rheumatic	
Ezra Deane	Boston, Mass.	Jan. 13, 1814	Pills, rheumatic	
Ezra Deane	Biddeford, Mass.	Feb. 2, 1828	Pills, rheumatic	
John J. Oellig	Bedford, Maine	Oct. 28, 1837	Pills, and tonic, and ap- riant	
	Waynesburg, Pa.			

The following is a compound for one hundred and fifty pills: Crab apple root bark, one drachm and a half, rhubarb two drachms, extract of hoarhound twenty grains, sal. soda two scruples, and castile soap sufficient to make the above into a mass for pills. I can confidently recommend the above pills in the various diseases hereafter named, namely: All derangements of the stomach and bowels, as dyspepsia,

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Ingredients, mode of compounding, diseases for which it is alleged the medicines are remedies.

Names of patentees.	Residence.	Date of patents.	Names of medicines.
John J. Oellig—contd.	Waynesburg, Pa.	Oct. 28, 1837	Pills, and tonic, and aperient
			in its different degrees, by removing the sourness and costiveness so frequent in symptoms of dyspeptic persons, functional derangement of the liver, sick headache, cardialgia or neuralgia facier-chronic rheumatism, tie dolorreux, incipient consumptions, epilepsy, palpitation of the heart, derangement or suspension of the menses, hysteria melancholia, nervous convulsions, delirium tremens or mania a potu, and in all cases of mania and nervous debility occasioned by the use of drastic purgatives, palsy, cramp of the stomach, podagra or gout, and by their power give strength to weak eyes, and restore hearing occasioned by debility.
Abel Broom Reuben Wood	Hudson, N. Y. Centre Lisle, Broome county, N. Y.	Oct. 17, 1804. Feb. 20, 1836	Rheumatic liniment Sores, curing
Joseph Meshier Elisha Smith Lemuel Merritt and S. Rogers	Philadelphia, Pa. New Brunswick, N.J. New York	Jan. 16, 1816 Jan. 20, 1826 Dec. 27, 1815	Syphilis, &c., medicine for the cure of Tincture for curing corns Toothache, relieving by steam
Joseph Utly Samuel Pennington	Mount Pleasant, O.	Nov. 15, 1817 July 30, 1829	Not restored do do do Toothache remedy Toothache specific

Peter Faulkner	Rockville, Pa.	Sept. 23, 1843	Vegetable elixir, for cure of bronchitis	For the cure of bronchitis, sore throat, asthma, croup, whooping cough, dyspepsia.—Take two pounds of sweet apple tree bark, dried, and boil the same in six gallons of soft water, till reduced to one gallon; then strain it. Add two and a half ounces of tarterized antimony, dissolved in a quart of warm water, four ounces of pulverized jalap, half a pound of nitrate of potass, one pint of spirits of camphor, and half a pound of loaf sugar. The whole to be well mixed together, and bottled for use.
George Rogers	Northampton, Mass.	Dec. 31, 1808	Vegetable wash for the lungs	Not restored
Joseph Lehman	Philadelphia, Pa.	Aug. 11, 1807	Vermisuge, preparing	do
Charles McLane	Morgantown	Aug. 19, 1833	Worms, specific	do

Names of applicants.	Residence.	Date of application.	Names of medicines.	Ingredients, mode of compounding, diseases for which it is alleged the medicines are remedies.
Voorheis & Dunlap	Pultney, N. Y.	March 2, 1837	Cancer powder, vegetable	The articles used in compounding the vegetable cancer powder are seven parts of potash and one part of crocus martas. It makes a compound that will destroy cancerous tumors.
J. C. M. Van Buren and C. King	New York	July 9, 1837	Aperient medicine	Recipe.—Oil of eroton tigillum, eight drops; white sugar, three ounces, six drachms; super-carbonate of soda, six drachms; oil of lemons, four drops; saturated tincture of the cucumber wood, four drops. Rub the above into a very fine powder, and divide it into twelve equal parts. Tartarie acid, six drachms. Rub this into a fine powder, and divide it into twelve equal parts.
John Sala	Canton, Ohio	Dec. 21, 1838	Elixir, vegetable	The following ingredients, in the annexed proportions, constitute and make said composition of matter: two ounces extract of juglandis; one ounce extract of anthemidas; two ounces extract taraxica; two ounces extract of sarsaparilla; two ounces extract of glycyrrh; two ounces theriac; one and a quarter ounce canella alba, (cortex;) two ounces radix rhei; two ounces semini ani; two ounces aloes, (sacration;) one and a quarter ounce crocus, (Spanish;) one and a quarter ounce botetus; one and a half ounce gum myrrh, (opt;) four pounds sachrum alb.; five gallons diluted alcohol. Macerate the extracts and theriac in eight pounds of distilled or rain water for the term of five days in a sand bath or the sun; at the same time pulverize the canella, rhei, ani, aloes, botetus, gum myrrh, and sacharum with the crocus, and mix it with the alcohol, and set it in a sand bath or the sun for the same five days. Then, at the end of the five days, mix the whole together, and shake it up frequently during five days more, and at the close of the ten days, it will be fit for use. The medicine can be taken with perfect safety by all ages of persons, for the following diseases, to wit: affections of the liver, dyspepsia, loss of appetite, indigestion, consumption, coughs, fever and ague, dropsy, heartburn, diarrhoea,

cholic, weakness of the body, palpitation of the heart, affections of the skin, and all diseases arising from impure blood, and is a valuable medicine in all complaints of female weakness, and when there is any irregularity arising from debility.

The following is a recipe for making Doctor J. W. Bute's rheumatic liniment, for the cure of rheumatism, gout, king's evil, scrofula, painful diseases of the spine, strains, bruises, crick in the neck, swellings in the joints or bones, from the abuse of mercury, wind galls, strains, cuts, saddle galls, or bruises on horses, &c., &c. R. spirits terebinth, one ounce; beef's gall, one ounce; spirits of camphor, one ounce; sweet oil, one ounce; carbonate of ammonia, one drachm; oil of amber, one ounce; oil of juniper, one drachm; mix, Fr, liniment.

Enclosing within a coating of gelatine or gum, (called capsules,) a liquid medicine denominated vermisuge, or worm specific, or worm destroying drops, and all oleaginous (or otherwise) compositions to destroy worms.

The following is a full and exact description of articles comprising the same and their proportions, that, when mixed, forms the most invaluable liniment, as follows: One pound of oil of orreganum, pure; one pound of rosemary, pure; two pounds of olive or sweet oil; half a pound of tincture of cantharides; half a pound of spirits of turpentine; one ounce of spirits of camphor, (or one ounce of gum camphor, dissolved in alcohol, to every gallon of the above mixture.) For the cure of serofula, inflammation of the glands, inflammatory rheumatism, and chronic rheumatism, wounds, bruises, scalds, sprains, sore eyes, &c.

A vegetable extract, for speedily healing flesh wounds in the flesh of man or animals; also, scalds, burns, sore nipples, &c. The extract is obtained by distilling the bark, twigs, leaves, and berries of the common *witch hazel*, in the usual mode of distillation, and may be preserved any length of time in well corked bottles.

A new and improved mode of curing fevers and chills, and every variety of chills and agues, with fevers, and intermittent fevers. The following being the proper quantities in proportion to each other, to complete the medicine: Take, say, one-third of an ounce of quinine; one and a half

June 14, 1841 - Louisville, Ky. -

Aurelius B. Hull - New York -

April 17, 1846 - Capsules, vermisuge

James Hibben - Jamestown, Ohio -

Mar. 5, 1847 - Nerve and bone liniment -

William Strain - Utica, N. Y. -

Sept. 14, 1846 - Medicine for cure of flesh wounds -

Silas Hawes - Utica, N. Y. -

Sept. 15, 1847 - Medical compound

William Strain - Columbus, Ohio -

Names of applicants.	Residence.	Date of application.	Names of medicines.
William Strain—cont'd	Columbus, Ohio	Sept. 15, 1847	Medical compound
			ounces of cayenne pepper; one ounce of crystallized citric acid; and one gallon of whiskey. I place the whole in a corked bottle, or any other proper and convenient vessel, and then shake the vessel well until the whole contents are properly mixed. After shaking, I set the vessel containing the whole away and let it remain undisturbed twelve hours, or until the contents are well settled, then the liquor is drawn off from the sediment which settles in the bottom. The liquor drawn off is the medicine.
Jacob H. Sutfield	Dover, Mo.	Mar. 21, 1846	Composition, curing chills and fevers.
Charles A. Smith	Providence, R. I.	June 28, 1845	
Jairus E. Strong	Lebanon, Me.	Feb. 10, 1846	Compound vegetable narcotic.

Ingredients, mode of compounding, diseases for which it is alleged the medicines are remedies.

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My invention consists of six different ingredients, compounded together and made into pills. These ingredients are as follows, viz: An equal quantity of calomel, aloes, gum myrrh, piperine, quinine, and scammony. I will proceed to describe the manner in which said medicine is made: I take alum and melt it in an iron vessel over a charcoal fire, after which it is cooled, and then pulverized. I then take copperas, and dry it in a similar vessel over the fire, and when perfectly dried and cooled, is pulverised as the alum; bole armenian and flour of sulphur, equal quantities of each, and mix them well together.

For curing and relieving diseases, etc., such as the following, viz: Burns, scalds, and freezes; rheumatics; coughs, arising from irritation or inflammation of the throat; sore and inflamed eyes; toothache; earache; tie dolourux; pain in the stomach and bowels; lameness and weakness of the back, side and chest; swelling and weakness of the joints; pain in and wasting of the limbs; spinal and hip complaints; lockjaw; ringworms; blood blisters; bruises; blisters and sores caused by friction; sprains; poison, from ivy and dogwood; chilblains; cold extremities; cramps;

bronchial and asthmatic complaints, and swelling of the tonsils. To enable others skilled in the art, to make and use my invention, I will proceed to describe the mode of preparing and applying it: I take alcohol, at least eighty per cent., six quarts; gum camphor, twelve ounces; put the gum into a part of the alcohol and let it remain ten or twelve days, shaking it frequently. Then take six ounces of lobelia inflata, (the seeds;) six ounces African cayenne, and eight ounces American or imported valerian; pulverize these separately and put them into the remaining portion of alcohol, and let it remain ten or twelve days, then strain and put it with the former; twelve ounces of bayberry bark, (of the root,) and boil it in water till the strength is obtained; then strain and boil down to the consistency of thin molasses, and add as before. Then add to this, four ounces of oil of spearmint; four ounces of oil of cedar; four ounces of oil of cloves; four ounces of oil of sassafras; three ounces of oil of cinnamon; one ounce of spirits turpentine; two ounces of oil of wormwood; four ounces of oil of hemlock; one ounce of oil of tansey; four ounces of oil of fir; three ounces of oil of rosemary; this compound is anodyne, antiphlogistic, antiseptic, antispasmodic, carminative, stimulating, and strengthening.

The following are the ingredients thereof, viz: Pulv. gum scammony one hundred and forty-four grains, aloës one hundred and forty-four grains, rad. rhei one hundred and forty-four grains, sap. venet twenty grains, carb. soda twenty grains, ol. caryophil sixteen guttis, tr. aloës sufficient to form a mass, to be divided into one hundred and forty-four pills.

The following are the ingredients, viz: Pulv. gum opii sixty-four grains, pulv. capsici African one hundred and ninety-two grains, pulv. colombo sixty-four grains, syrup or mucilage sufficient to form a mass to be divided into one hundred and twenty-eight pills.

Prescription thereof, viz: Sulph. quinine three ounces, rad. rhei pulveris three ounces, piperinal prinal one ounce, acidum sulphurium dilutum (quantum sufficit) forman massam. Make the above recipe into pills of three and a half grains each.

Elizabeth Spann	Edgefield, S. C.	June 29, 1841	Anti-bilious' pills	Ague, &c., pills
Richard Thurston	Crawford, Ark.	June 29, 1841	Anti-fever pills	-
Elizabeth Spann	Edgefield, S. C.	June 29, 1841	Anti-fever pills	-

Elizabeth Spann  
Richard Thurston

## Rep. No. 52.

Names of applicants.	Residence.	Date of applications.	Names of medicines.
Wm. W. Wood	Benton, Miss.	Mar. 31, 1847	Fever and ague pill
			The component parts of "Wood's ague and fever pills" are as follows, to wit: Two grains quinine, one grain carbonate soda, one grain carbonate iron, one drop oil of sassafras, and one grain capsicum gum, gum arabic to mix the pills. The capsicum gum is made as follows, to wit: The capsicum must be put into an iron vessel and in warm water, there to be left for four days, at the end of which time the same must be strained, and then boiled down to a gum.
Wm. W. Wood	Benton, Miss.	Dec. 20, 1847	Tonic and diuretic pills
			The nature of my invention consists of the following ingredients, to wit: Carbonate of iron one grain, super. carbonate of soda one grain, bulb. colchicum one grain, aloes half a grain, and gum resin of white pine three grains.
Wm. B. Williamson	Polk, Texas	July 29, 1846	Cancers, cure of
			Take a handful of sheep sorrel, wrap it in three thicknesses of cabbage leaves, well secured by strings, and then roast it well in hot embers, but not so as to burn it; then scrape it (the sheep sorrel) fine, and apply it so as to completely cover the part affected; then secure it well by bandage, and let it remain for eight or ten hours, then remove and wash the part affected with a solution of water and castile soap; then well sprinkle the parts affected with pulverized burnt alum; then place a fine linen cloth over the alum, and upon that place a poultice of slippery elm or lyme bark, pulverized fine. Repeat this application for several days, which will, if a cancer wart, remove by taking it out at the roots. This is an effectual cure for cancer warts. For the cure of cancer strictly so called, it may be necessary to continue it for a fortnight by alternate applications of the sorrel and burnt alum and poultice.—For salve to heal the wound. Take the resin (rosin) root, bruise it, and boil it in water, then boil the water down to a gum; then put a small portion of beeswax and a portion of turpentine from a pine tree, and also a portion of balsam fir, simmer them all, and stir them over a slow fire so as to mix well.

H. M. Turner Cumberland, N. C.	Aug. 4, 1845	Medicine, cure of chills and fever	Take of sulphur quinnea twenty-four grains, do cupri three grains, do morphia one and a half grains, extract gentiana twenty-four grains, and compound and manufacture them in the usual manner into twelve pills, one of which constitutes a dose for an adult, to be taken any time during the absence of the fever, one pill every three hours.
Benj. Wigglesworth	Oct. 20, 1845	Compound medicine	Medicines in the form of pills for the more certain and effect- tual cure of ague, and fever or intermittent fever.—R. Do- ver's powders ij. ounce; sulphate quinino j. ounce, extract of gentian j. ounce and ij. drachms; extract of taraxicum ij. drachms, oil of sasafras or carni ij. drachms, alcohol half ounce. Mix the Dover's powders and quinine well together, and then add the extracts, and after rubbing well add the oil dissolved in the alcohol.
Spring Ridge, Miss.	Sept. 8, 1847	Improved pill	Improved pill for the disease known as dysmanorrhœa or pain- ful menstruation.—Rx. gum camphor two and a half drachms, extract of belladonna one scruple, sulph. quinine one scruple, flour one scruple, aqua q. s. to make mass. Divide into 80 pills.
Indianapolis, Ind.	March 8, 1848	Preparation, cure of go- norrhœa	Preparation for the cure of gonorrhœa, whites, leucorrhœa or fluor albus, and for all diseases of the genital organs.—Oil of cubeb three drachms, spirits nitre dulc. six drachms, bal- sam copaiba one and a half ounces, simple syrup two ounces, compound spirits lavender three drachms, tinc. cantharides one and a half ounces, oil balsam copaiba one and a half drachms, theberiae tinc. one and a half drachms. Doso, a teaspoon full three times a day.
John E. McClure			

Your committee admit alternative sentiments of merriment and sorrow on reading the above communication of the Commissioner of Patents. The merriment of him who would cry over the misfortunes and follies of his race, cannot but be excited when he reads this record of uncouth names, incongruous compounds, and incompatible combinations, whilst the sadness of him, "who laughs at folly as it flies," will be provoked at the consciousness of imposition and injury to the ignorant and duped purchasers of these nostrums. The oath prescribed by law, and duly administered to each applicant for a patent, is, that "his invention is new and useful." An examination of the list will clearly exhibit perjury, most foul, on every page. No combination there "new" is "useful," and no "useful" combination is "new." Almost every prescription combines some active known agent, disguised under colors, and heralded with a name, in many instances, as uncouth as it is insignificant or false. The more obscurity and unintelligibility the better. Your committee suggest that the present laws be repealed, or some modification to prevent the perjury which has heretofore followed the administration of the present patent system.

Your committee regret to say, that they find instances of men having obtained patents who were graduates of respectable medical schools. If these men possess any skill or knowledge, they must have been indebted for it to the *open* laborious examinations of the medical faculty. The instances are rare, yet they could not escape our attention. For more than two thousand years, the minds of men have been directed to means for the prolongation of life, the preservation of health, and the destruction of pain and suffering. Minds of the most enlarged capacity have ransacked the various kingdoms of nature, and from her secret arcana have extorted tribute to pour in the lap of science. Whenever a discovery was made, with haste and alacrity it was given to the profession and the public. Take but one example. The name of Jenner, the highest on the roll of fame, would not have occupied that proud position, had he have kept his discovery a secret. He saw a world in suffering and sorrow. No tick of the clock, but some one was ushered into eternity by that scourge of his race—small pox. With a perseverance that demanded success, for thirty years he labored with this one, this all-absorbing desire—the discovery of a preventive; and, when labor and patience covered him with success, he proclaimed it as with "trumpet tongues." Shame on one whose intelligence gives him rank in his profession and character in community, whose avarice and cupidity overcomes his duty, and whose selfishness knows no brotherhood in his profession or in suffering mankind. Whence did he derive the knowledge which prompted the discovery he patents? not from secret, patent inventions. He had roamed through the world of knowledge, and had drank at the fountain of other men's wisdom. He reads their published records, mounts on their wings, and, instead of soaring higher and adding additional blessings to his fellow men, he records his knowledge upon parchment, asks the endorsement of the

government, and enforces by law any violation of rights thus vested. Instead of blessing their species, and elevating a profession they should foster and defend as their honor and their life, they degrade themselves and injure the fair fame and increasing usefulness of the science of healing.

Your committee are aware that this communication is addressed to men whose knowledge of medicine does not extend beyond general reading, or the sorrowful reminiscences of past personal sufferings and illness. They appreciate the difficulty of clothing a scientific subject in popular language, yet believe they will be enabled to illustrate that patent medicines inflict on the community a variety of evils. First, they are so *indiscriminately* used, as to produce certain and appreciable mischief. There is no *specific* in medicine, that is, there is no one agent or combination of agents, which will cure any one disease, in all ages, in both sexes, in all constitutions, and in all the different stages of attack. Science abhors a *specific*, as does nature a vacuum. To lay down *a priori* a certain remedy for any one affection, is an obvious contradiction of a fundamental principle of all scientific practice. Medicines are relative agents; that is, they operate curatively, by a judicious application of them to a morbid condition, regulated by the symptoms, as these vary from *hour to hour*. All patent medicines are heralded as catharticons, and are prescribed to cure diseases as opposite as virtue and vice. If the article is active, its indiscriminate use is fraught with very great evil; if inert, it will occupy the room of efficient and judiciously applied methods of cure. Diseases, curable in their early stages, become determinedly fatal if left uncontrolled. There is in all organized bodies a destructive principle as well as a conservative principle. Disease is the usurped control of the destructive principle, and will assuredly prove ultimately triumphant over the conservative guardian power of the system, unless judicious medication is employed to check its career.

An evil both medical and moral, inflicted by patent medicines, is the extravagant laudation bestowed upon them by their vendors. A well known remedy, such as opium, is disguisedly united with others as well known, and sold as a new remedy. In order to insure the sale, most fulsome eulogy is heaped upon it, and ignorance and credulity are thus lured to a ready employment and confidence in the compound. Man's mind is so constituted as to love mystery, especially when with it is associated promises of great benefit. The public prints, with no exception, publish these promises and commendations. The annual fee for publishing Brandreth's pills has amounted to one hundred thousand dollars. Morrison paid more than twice as much for the advertisement of his never dying Hygeine. Morrison is forgotten and Brandreth is on the high road to the same destination. T. W. Conway, from the lowest obscurity, became worth millions from the sale of his nostrums, and rode in triumph through the streets of Boston in his coach and six. A stable boy in New York was enrolled amongst the wealthiest in Philadelphia by the sale of a panacea which contains both mercury and arsenic. Innumerable instances similar could be adduced.

Statements are made in the public prints too startling for credulity's self; certificates of cures of diseases diametrically opposite, by the same agent are abundant; the sacred desk has found its sanctuary invaded and its garments polluted by the heralding of quackery. Instead of proclaiming the sacred truth "for the healing of the nations," we find the names of numerous divines attached to certificates of cures and recommendations to popular favor of innumerable and dangerous patent medicines. Incurable diseases, such as consumption, are in an especial degree the basis on which such vile tampering is made to display its fantastic and injurious tricks, and from the poor victims an abundant and rich harvest is reaped. Large sums are annually expended to fill the coffers of the venders, by exciting the imagination with these bold averments of cures by respectable divines, and many persons are known, by these impositions, to expend their entire means of living. The medical profession suffer directly and indirectly by these means. Government should not impede, by any direct action, the progress of science in any of its departments. If positive enactments for the protection of science is not deemed advisable, surely all acts interfering with its benefits and dissemination should be refrained from. By patenting a medicine government assumes a position hostile to the science of healing. In plain terms, by this act, it says: "Let science be thrust aside, for we, by solemn legislation, authorize the vender to offer the nostrum, with our recommendation affixed to his patent to cure, without scientific investigation into the nature and seat of the disease, and without any elaborate exercise of the mind in making up its conclusions, in every case and every varying phase."

Anatomy, physiology, pathology, and general therapeutics, are all thrust aside, and their special and minute cultivation are at once and forever nullified.

Government thus lends its power and influence directly in the perpetration of this fraud, as the empowering of a nostrum vender to sell under its sanction, evinces that in order to give it notoriety the imprimatur of legislation had to be secured. If such medicines were to stand on their own merita, aside from adventitious aid, they would soon go down to the "tomb of the Capulets."

The increase of empiricism and of patent medicines within the 19th century, is an evil over which the friends of science and humanity can never cease to mourn. During the past century, but very few were known or used, and throughout the continent of Europe they are forbidden. Happily for us had a similar edict have been early passed. Such restrictions are deemed by many anti-republican—yet such advocate quarantine, and other regulations for the protection of the community against contagious diseases, yet forbid the passage of laws preventing the sale of poisons. One reason of the increase of patent medicines, is the mischief done by the indiscriminate and unjustifiable use and abuse of calomel and other mercurial preparations. This valuable medicine, which has snatched thousands of victims from an untimely grave, we doubt not, has been improperly administered by physicians and

others, and its consequences have been deplorable. The quack has taken advantage of the prejudice against this medicine, and has thrown into the market his nostrum—which is promised not only to eradicate mercury from the system, but is a certain cure for all other diseases. The hypocrisy and deception of these promises will be manifest when it is shewn that a majority of these agents contain mercury in its various forms. This is certainly true with regard to Lee's pills, these have had the longest run of any patent medicine, and are swallowed eagerly by the greatest enemies of mercury; to Swaim's Panacea, containing mercury; to Keyser's pills, containing the most powerful preparation of mercury; to Ching's worm lozenges, which are filled with calomel; and to a majority of others.

Mr Colton, in his *Four Years in Great Britain*, says, "it is ascertained that the careless and imperfect manner of mixing the ingredients of Morrison's pills often leave the powerful agents in one part of the mass—before being made into pills; these kill those who happen to have a box of that portion, while the rest may be swallowed with as much impunity as bits of dough from the kneading trough."

Your committee do not indulge the hope that the passage of the law recommended by them will prevent the sale of secret nostrums, their chief purpose is to free the government from all participation in what they deem frauds upon the confidence and health of the public.

